

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EB:JLKATZ:S/P:WGAITHWRIGHT:DI

APPROVED BY EB - MR. ENDERS

S/S-O:GTWOHIE

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TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 236983

STADIS

TO SEC 240

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S SPEECH TO WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

REF: MOSCOW 16363 (SECTO 126)

FOR WINSTON LORD FROM ENDERS AND S/P

A. AS REQUESTED REFTEL FOLLOWING IS DRAFT MEMORANDUM TO
PRESIDENT ON SUBJECT OF AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT SURVEY:

1. THE PRINCIPAL UNDERLYING ANALYTICAL CONCLUSION OF MY
SPEECH TO WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IS THE NEED FOR A VAST
INCREASE IN PRODUCTION OF FOOD TO MEET REQUIREMENTS OF A
GROWING POPULATION, ADEQUATE RESERVES AND IMPROVED DIETS.
TO MEET EXPECTED DOUBLING OF WORLD POPULATION IN NEXT
GENERATION AND ADEQUATE NUTRITION STANDARDS WOULD REQUIRE
150 PERCENT MORE FOOD OR TOTAL ANNUAL OUTPUT OF THREE
BILLION TONS OF GRAIN BY END OF THIS CENTURY. IN NEXT
TEN YEARS THE FOOD GAP OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES COULD GROW
FROM PRESENT 25 MILLION TONS TO 50 TO 90 MILLION TONS.

2. WHILE IMPORTING COUNTRIES MUST THEMSELVES DO MUCH TO
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INCREASE THEIR OWN PRODUCTION OF FOOD, TRADITIONAL FOOD

EXPORTING COUNTRIES LIKE THE U.S. HAVE A MAJOR OPPORTUNITY AS WELL AS AN OBLIGATION TO INCREASE GREATLY THEIR FOOD PRODUCTION AND THEIR EXPORTS.

3. I PROPOSE THEREFORE TO REFER TO YOUR CALL LAST MONTH FOR THE REMOVAL OF ALL RESTRAINTS ON PRODUCTION IN THE U.S., BUT MORE IS REQUIRED. IT IS CLEAR THAT WE CAN NO LONGER CALL INTO PRODUCTION RESERVE ACREAGE. FROM NOW ON INCREASES IN PRODUCTION WILL REQUIRE CLEARING OF NEW LAND AND PROVISION IRRIGATION AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS TO INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY LAND IN PRODUCTION. THIS OF COURSE MEANS A DETERMINED POLICY WITH NECESSARY INCENTIVES TO ASSURE THAT THE SUBSTANTIAL INVESTMENTS THAT WILL BE REQUIRED WILL BE FORTHCOMING. I WOULD LIKE IN THIS CONNECTION TO STATE IN MY SPEECH THAT THE U.S. IS LAUNCHING A SYSTEMATIC SURVEY OF THE INVESTMENT REQUIREMENTS THAT OUR COUNTRY WILL HAVE TO PRODUCE THE GRAIN WHICH WILL NEEDED FOR FUTURE YEARS AND THAT WE WILL ENSURE THAT THESE INVESTMENT REQUIREMENTS WILL BE MET THROUGH THE ADOPTION OF APPROPRIATE ECONOMIC POLICIES.

4. I BELIEVE THAT SUCH AN INVESTMENT SURVEY MIGHT BE BEST UNDERTAKEN IN THE FIRST INSTANCE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WHICH HAS THE TECHNICAL CAPABILITY TO PLAN AND DIRECT A STUDY OF THIS TYPE. I RECOMMEND THAT I BE AUTHORIZED TO ANNOUNCE THAT YOU HAVE DIRECTED THE INITIATIVE OF SUCH AN AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT SURVEY.

B. FOLLOWING IS DRAFT MEMORANDUM TO PRESIDENT ON NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES STUDY WITH ACCOMPANYING DRAFT LETTER FROM PRESIDENT TO HANDLER. (NOTE: WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO REACH ALAN BERG THIS WEEKEND.)

1. AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN DEALING WITH THE FOOD SUPPLY PROBLEM OVER THE LONGER TERM WILL BE THE EFFECTIVE PROSECUTION OF WELL DESIGNED RESEARCH--BOTH BASIC AND APPLIED--TO INCREASE WORLD FOOD SUPPLY AND COUNTER MALNUTRITION.

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2. I HAVE BEEN ADVISED BY DR. PHILIP HANDLER, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, THAT WHILE SOME INCREASE IN PRODUCTIVITY CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED BY MORE EFFECTIVE APPLICATION OF EXISTING KNOWLEDGE, THE INCREASES WHICH WILL BE NEEDED WILL REQUIRE NEW KNOWLEDGE AND NEW METHODS.

3. WHILE CONVENTIONAL FOOD CROPS WILL CERTAINLY

PROVIDE OTHER MAIN BASIS FOR FEEDING MANKIND IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, FOOD RESOURCES CAN, I AM TOLD, BE SIGNIFICANTLY SUPPLEMENTED BY DEVELOPMENT AND EXPLOITATION OF VARIOUS NEW AND AT PRESENT UNCONVENTIONAL FOODS.

4. THE BASIC PROBLEM IS NOT ONLY ONE OF ADEQUACY OF SUPPLY IN A QUANTITATIVE SENSE BUT A QUALITATIVE SENSE AS WELL. RESEARCH EMPHASIS, THEREFORE, IS ALSO NEEDED ON MEANS OF COUNTERING MALNUTRITION.

5. EXISTING KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNIQUES CAN ALSO BE APPLIED TO PROBLEMS RELATED TO DISTRIBUTION, STORAGES, PROCESSING, AND PRESERVATION OF CROPS. HOWEVER, THE PROSPECT OF RESOLVING THESE PROBLEMS OVER THE LONG-RUN WILL BE ENHANCED IF MORE SYSTEMATIC RESEARCH EFFORTS ARE DESIGNED AND PURSUED.

6. THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES CAN BE OF SIGNIFICANT HELP IN DESIGNING A RESEARCH PROGRAM ADEQUATE TO THESE TASKS AND IN RECOMMENDING PRIORITIES. I, THEREFORE, RECOMMEND THAT YOU SEND THE ENCLOSED LETTER TO DR. HANDLER REQUESTING THAT THE ACADEMY PREPARE RECOMMENDATIONS.

7. WE WOULD HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR SUCH A STUDY AND FOR ANY NEW RESEARCH PROGRAMS WHICH MIGHT BE ADOPTED AS A RESULT. I WILL PURSUE THE FIRST OF THESE PROBLEMS WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF AID AND OTHERS UPON MY RETURN. THE SECOND SHOULD BE HANDLED THROUGH THE BUDGET PROCESS BUT WITH SPECIAL PRIORITY TO ENSURE THAT RESEARCH NEEDED FOR LONG-TERM SUCCESS IS NOT NEGLECTED UNDER PRESSURE FROM SHORT-TERM REQUIREMENTS.

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8. SHOULD YOU AGREE WITH THIS PROPOSAL I WOULD LIKE TO STATE IN MY SPEECH THAT YOU ARE REQUESTING THE NAS TO DESIGN A FAR-REACHING FOOD AND NUTRITION PROGRAM DIRECTED TO BOTH AMERICA'S AND THE WORLD'S NEEDS.

DEAR DR. HANDLER:

9. I AM WRITING TO ENLIST THE AID OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES IN A MAJOR EFFORT TO LESSEN THE PRESENT GRIM PROSPECT THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS OF PEOPLES AROUND THE WORLD WILL BE CONFRONTED WITH CHRONIC SHORTAGES OF FOOD AND WITH THE DEBILITATING EFFECTS OF MALNUTRITION.

10. IN THE FACE OF THIS PROSPECT, THE UNITED STATES

AND OTHER SCIENTIFICALLY AND TECHNOLOGICALLY
ADVANCED COUNTRIES HAVE, I BELIEVE, A SPECIAL RESPON-
SIBILITY TO TURN THEIR RESEARCH CAPABILITIES TOWARD
DEVELOPING ADEQUATE APPROACHES TO IMPROVING THE
CAPABILITIES OF ALL COUNTRIES TO INCREASE THEIR

PRODUCTION OF FOOD AND TO COMBAT MALNUTRITION AND ITS
EFFECTS. IF WE ARE TO ACCOMPLISH THIS WE WILL NEED TO
SET PRIORITIES, DETERMINE THE RESOURCES NEEDED, AND
ESTABLISH SPECIFIC PROGRAMS.

11. GIVEN THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES' LONG
INTEREST IN THE FOOD SUPPLY PROBLEM AND ITS UNIQUE
ROLE IN OUR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COMMUNITY, I
THEREFORE REQUEST THAT, TOGETHER WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES,
YOU UNDERTAKE TO PROPOSE AN ASSESSMENT OF THIS MATTER
AND MAKE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING HOW OUR
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CAPABILITIES CAN BEST BE
APPLIED TO MEETING THIS MAJOR CHALLENGE. INGERSOLL

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